2007-05771/

FOIP FOLIO

St. Patrick's Day

SASKATCHEWAN

March 2006

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Our office is holding an open competition for a **portfolio officer**. The successful applicant will be a highly motivated, dynamic individual to assist with the examination and resolution of diverse access to information and privacy issues arising from *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP), *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (LA FOIP), and *The Health Information Protection Act* (HIPA). The portfolio officer will monitor compliance with the Acts, mediate between individuals and public sector organizations and health trustees on access and disclosure issues and generally uphold the access and privacy rights of Saskatchewan residents. The successful candidate will use proven communication skills and proactive work style to investigate, analyze and resolve cases and complaints. This will also involve promoting public awareness through accessible education programs. The qualifications include a university degree plus considerable directly related experience in legislative and policy interpretation, investigations, research and analysis, negotiation and mediation. Knowledge of Saskatchewan and Canadian access and privacy legislation will be an asset. Knowledge of the Saskatchewan health care system and information technology would also be an asset. Equivalences may be considered.

Please tune in to our website at http://www.oipc.sk.ca/whats_new.htm for a copy of the Employment Ad and the Position Summary/Responsibilities. You can also view the Ad in the Leader Post and Star Phoenix on March 18 & March 25, 2006. The closing date for applications is April 6, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.

BROWN BAG SERIES

Our office will be continuing our 'brown bag' luncheon series into April. The workshops are free and open to Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act ("FOIP") and Health Information Protection Act ("HIPA") Coordinators. You are encouraged to bring your 'brown bag' lunch and join us for a discussion of key access and privacy issues. It is necessary to pre-register so we can prepare adequate handouts. To register, call Candace Malowany at 787-8350 or 1-877-748-2298. There will be a handout for each workshop. Each session runs from 12:10 p.m. to 12:50 p.m.

Wednesday, April 5, 2006
in Regina

A FOIP Love Triangle! The Public Body, The Applicant and the Third Party (FOIP Part V)
Location: Information and Privacy Commissioner
503 – 1801 Hamilton Street, Regina

Wednesday, April 19, 2006
in Saskatoon

How to survive and even have fun as the FOIP/HIPA Coordinator
Location: Saskatoon Health Region
Suite 300, 410 – 22nd Street East, Saskatoon

VERSATILITY IN THE HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (HIM) PROFESSION (by Victoria Ngo)

Students enrolled in the Health Information Management (HIM) program at SIAST Wascana Campus in Regina have a lot to look forward to once they graduate. This career path can lead to many opportunities in the health care industry. In addition, the skills acquired are also transferable to other non-health care organizations.

I am enrolled in my second year in the HIM program, and I am privileged to have received the Office of the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) as my practicum site.

What is a HIM Professional?

HIM professionals are experts in the field of patient health information and medical records.

HIM professional duties can include:

- operating computer information systems
- coding diagnoses and procedures for reimbursement
- maintaining quality control of health records.

What skills does a HIM professional offer the OIPC?

HIM professionals are highly skilled in research and analysis, we work with different databases, we perform statistics, and we are very familiar with *The Health Information Protection Act* (HIPA); which is one of the three Acts that the OIPC oversees.

HIM professionals are members of the Canadian Health Information Management Association (CHIMA) and one of our domains of practice is "Privacy."

In the time that I have spent at the OIPC, I have had the opportunity to do some research and analysis which has allowed me to explore HIPA, FOIP, and LA FOIP in more detail. I find the area of "access" and "privacy" quite fascinating and so I am very grateful to have been chosen to be a part of the OIPC team. My experience here will prove to be of great value and I look forward to the challenges in the weeks ahead.

TASMANIAN EXPERT COMING TO REGINA IN JUNE

On June 12 and 13, 2006, Rick Snell, a Professor at the University of Tasmania in Australia will be in Regina. Rick teaches comparative law with a special interest in freedom of information and records management and the Ombudsman office. He has just completed a chapter on the Australia Ombudsman for a new book. Our office will be arranging an opportunity for Saskatchewan FOIPaphiles (or is it FOIPies) to meet Professor Snell.

CONCERNS WITH YOUTH DETOX LAW

On March 22, 2006, our office presented to the Legislative Assembly our Report on *The Youth Detoxification and Stabilization Act*. The OIPC identified concerns with the provision to exempt information collected, used or disclosed under the Act from *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and key portions of *The Health Information Protection Act*. The Report is accessible at www.oipc.sk.ca under *What's New*.

The 'Youth Detox' law is expected to go into force in early April 2006. It applies to sensitive and prejudicial personal health information of youth. The Youth Detox Act will deny parents the right they would otherwise enjoy to be able to access the information about their child and to request that errors be corrected. In fact, the entire package of 20 different rights that parents otherwise would be entitled to by reason of FOIP, LA FOIP and HIPA have been eliminated including the right to request a review by an independent OIPC. Our office has encouraged the government to consider amendments to the Youth Detox law to restore those rights to parents.

IS YOUR COMPUTER BEING HIJACKED?

If your computer is connected to the Internet without the proper protections, it becomes an open door for security threats that will exploit weaknesses in your system. Consider the different types of threats. Offered below is a sampling:

- "***Viruses*** *are compact binary codes that infect a computer mainly through email attachments, downloads, network files access or portable media like floppies or CDROMs and can destroy, modify or corrupt computer information.*"[1] The first non-PC virus appeared in 1981.
- ***Worms*** are fairly similar to viruses, but instead of infecting files worms will consume network resources. The first true worm surfaced in 1988. Some of the well-known worms include Blaster and MyDoom.
- As the name suggests, ***Trojans*** cloak hidden agendas with a legitimate application. "*Trojans can delete/corrupt/modify files, modify system's security configurations or even delete hard-drive partitions.*"[2]
- New forms of ***phishing*** (attacks using spoofed emails) include: ***puddle phishing*** - attacks aimed at customers of smaller organizations; and ***spear phishing*** – targeted attacks to specific groups or users.
- ***Pharming*** is disturbing as you key in the URL for a legitimate website but are hijacked enroute and instead end up on an illegitimate imposter site that looks the same as the legitimate site. If the user enters account and password information in order to log-on as usual, the information is "***phished***."

[1] Available online: http://www.2privacy.com/
[2] Ibid

IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU

No, we have no idea what the odds would be of you winning the lottery. Instead, our question is what is the likelihood that you may fall victim to identity theft? Identity theft is "*defined as the use of someone else's personal information, without his or her knowledge or consent, to commit a crime, such as fraud, theft, or forgery.*"[3] Back in 2003, nine percent of Canadians (roughly 2,700,000) reported that they had fallen victim to identity theft and as a result suffered emotional distress and experienced not only financial losses, but also a loss of reputation.[4]

In a recent poll, one-quarter of adult Canadians (24%) have self identified as being victims or indicated that they know someone else who was. This was one of the results from a recent national survey released by Ipsos Reid. Another survey result is that 73 per cent of Saskatchewan residents polled are concerned that they may fall victim to identity theft. As the Regina Police Service alone reported investigating 47 incidents categorized as identity theft between January and September 2005, we are obviously not immune.[5]

Nor were 100 job seekers who responded to online employment advertisements originating out of Ontario. In order to apply for the jobs posted, individuals were required to provide copies of their resumes and to fill out an application form which asked for applicants' social insurance numbers. Together the Ottawa police and Canada Post uncovered the "wide-ranging identity-theft scam" that resulted in $500,000 in charges made on phoney credit cards over the course of a four year period.[6] The police charged the culprits, two Ottawa residents, with conspiracy to commit fraud. As anyone from anywhere may have supplied a resume, police are still trying to determine if there are other victims out there that still don't know that it was a scam.

Some of the ways to protect yourself from identity theft and fraud include the following:

- immediately report any lost credit cards;
- dispute errors or fraudulent activity on your credit report;
- shred documents containing your personal information instead of just throwing them out; and,
- don't provide sensitive personal information such as your SIN on line.

As March is Fraud Prevention Month in Canada, you may wish to visit this site for more information: www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/fraud.

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[3] *Working Together to Prevent Identity Theft – A Discussion Paper*. Consumer Measures Committee, July 6, 2005, page 5.
[4] Ibid, page 2.
[5] Warner, Erin. *More safeguards urged for personal data protection*. The Leader Post. March 8, 2006.
[6] Proudfoot Shannon, *Identity-theft scam catches 100 people in net*. Ottawa Citizen: (Ontario), March 9, 2006. Available online: http://www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/